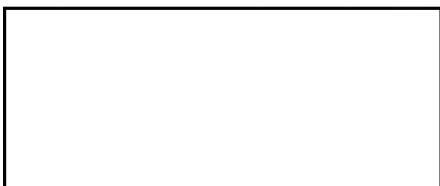


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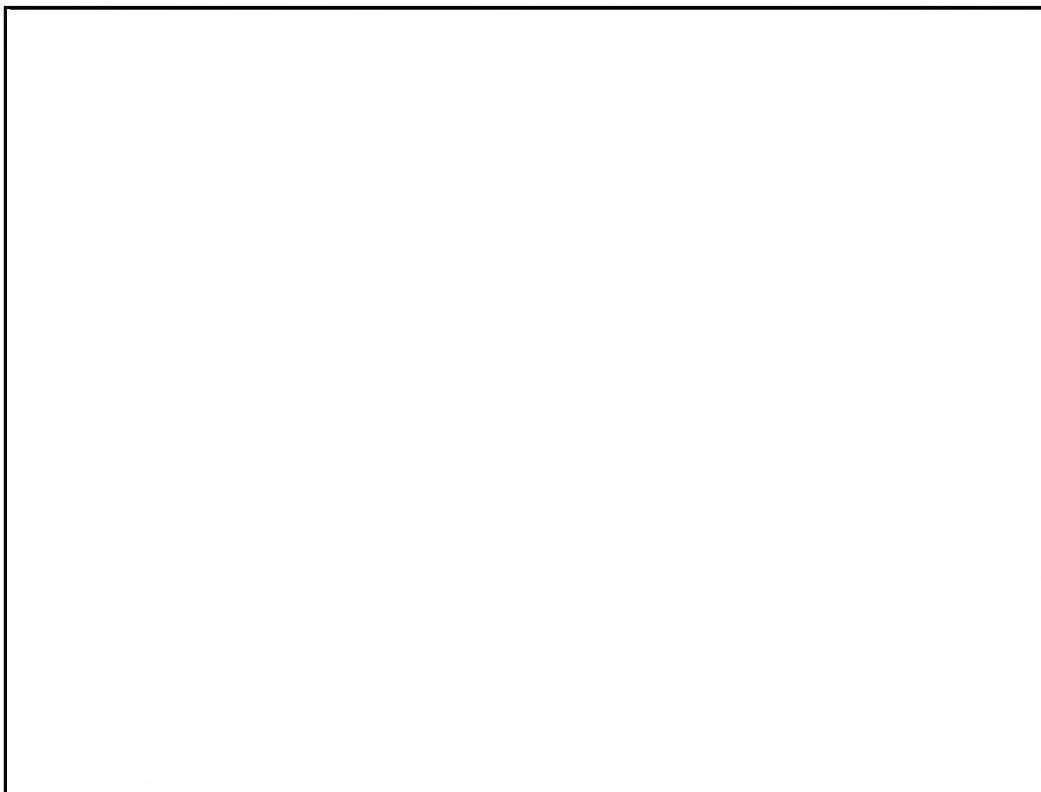
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C O N T E N T S

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3. LAOTIAN CABINET BALKS AT PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
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4. COMMUNIST ELECTED MAYOR OF OKINAWA'S CAPITAL

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3. LAOTIAN CABINET BALKS AT PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH PATHET LAO

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The Laotian cabinet on 22 December rejected a communiqué signed by Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma and Pathet Lao chief Souphanouvong calling for the inclusion of several Pathet leaders in the cabinet but offering no effective safeguards concerning restoration of government control over the disputed provinces and Pathet forces. The cabinet wishes, however, to reach a settlement and has agreed to give minor portfolios to two Pathets if the Pathet Lao will guarantee the immediate imposition of government control over the disputed territory, and the dissolution of the Pathet Lao movement. Should the Pathet Lao agree to these conditions, the government plans to turn the issue over to the National Assembly during the first week in January.

This development forces the Pathet Lao to choose between granting terms which would threaten its continued control of the two provinces or, by withholding agreement, causing the probable collapse of the Souvanna Phouma government and with it the agreements already negotiated.

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4. COMMUNIST ELECTED MAYOR OF OKINAWA'S CAPITAL

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Kamejiro Senaga, secretary general of the Okinawa People's Party (Communist), was elected mayor of Naha, Okinawa's largest city, in the 25 December elections. Consul General Steeves notes that Senaga's victory resulted from his extreme anti-American platform opposing further land acquisition for military use and favoring reversion of Okinawa to Japan, lower taxes, and election instead of appointment of Okinawa's chief executive.

Comment

Senaga visited Japan last August to propagandize Ryukyuan opposition to the Price Committee's recommendation to Congress on the land problem. His exaggerated view of the situation led to his repudiation by groups representing Okinawan mayors and local assemblies. Senaga's enhanced prestige as mayor of Okinawa's capital and largest city, however, is likely to increase the effectiveness of his anti-American propaganda.